

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Setting up of Thermal Power Stations in Coal Belts

1630. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to set up thermal power stations only in and around coal belts in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the resentment in other areas about the consequences of this decision; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to avoid concentration of power plants in certain regions of the country only?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHRI):

(a) No, Sir. The Government have not taken any formal decision to set up thermal power stations only around coal belts in the country. However, in order to utilise optimally the vast resources of coal in the country which are distributed in the various regions unevenly, the Government have approved the setting up of large thermal power stations at coal pitheads so as to enable generation of power at minimum cost and to minimise transportation of coal over long distances.

(b) and (c) The Government are not aware of any resentment being caused as a result of large pithead thermal power stations being set up. Since coal is the primary input for thermal power generation, coal bearing regions of the country have necessarily to be allowed to set up more thermal plants. However, depending on techno-economic factors, thermal plants located in load centres are also approved by the Government. Besides, the five large

thermal power stations being executed in the Central Sector at Singrauli (U.P.), Korba (M.P.), Ramagundam (A.P.), Farakka (West Bengal) and Neyveli in Tamil Nadu are regional power stations from which power has been allocated to all the beneficiaries of the regions concerned.

Allocation of Bitumen to Kerala

1631. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Kerala have made a request to the Central Government for additional allocation of at least 25000 tonnes of bitumen during 1980-81 as against the tentative allocation of 37000 MT of bitumen made by the Central Government;

(b) what is the basis of this tentative allocation of 37000 MT of bitumen to Kerala State; and

(c) what is the quantity of bitumen already released to the State against this allocation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allocations of bitumen for 1980-81 to all the States including for Kerala were based on the average sale of the product in the three preceding years. However, due to production difficulties the allocation was reduced by 15 per cent.

(c) During the period from April 1980 to February 1981, actual sales of bitumen in the State have been about 26, 400 tonnes.

Import of Caprolactum

1632. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: